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Numerous "culture" specialists are domiciled in Albania. A Soviet captain in Podgradec, who is an instructor there, is teaching Russian in the regiment. Three more Soviet teachers (women) are employed in the secondary school there. The people say that the Russians want to Russianize Albania, that they are just as numerous as the Italians at the time of the Italian occupation, and that both use the same nationalizing methods.

Bulgaria, too, is overrun with innumerable Soviet specialists. Besides the economic specialists who are supposed to take charge of plundering Bulgarian resources (they are especially numerous in the Buchovo uranium mine), and besides the military experts who really command the Bulgarian army, there are numerous educational specialists who supervise the spread of the cultural achievements of "the great Russian people."

Since the arrival of the Soviet opera experts, Sokovnin and Lushetski, all works of Italian composers have disappeared from the Sofia opera repertory, while Russian operas are given almost exclusively. Lushetski and Sokovnin received ten times the salary than that of their Bulgarian colleagues. So, for example, the principal opera singer received 26,000-30,000 leva while Sokovnin and Lushetski get 300,000 a month. On leaving Bulgaria, these two "culture experts" took with them two carloads of goods which they had bought in Bulgaria.

Living Standard and Customs of Soviet Instructors

All instructors who are entrusted with tasks in the army receive high salaries. While a Bulgarian officer receives 15,000-20,000 leva a month, Soviet military instructors get 100,000, 150,000 or more leva.

In Albania, an employee receives 2,400 to 3,600 lek monthly. A business manager gets about 4,200. An officer candidate in the Albanian Army receives 3,380 lek; a colonel, 7,500. Soviet instructors get 27,000-37,000 lek, several times what a highly qualified Albanian receives. Besides their high salaries, Soviet instructors have other privileges, such as the use of government automobiles, villas, etc. In countries like Albania, where the people are suffering from hunger, huge quantities of food are delivered to Soviet instructors.

The following table compares various articles of food supplied to a Soviet instructor and an Albanian officer:

	<u>Soviet Instructor</u> (Kg)	<u>Albanian Officer</u> (Kg)
White flour	30	17
Rice	5	--
Macaroni	5	--
Sugar	5	2
Cheese	5	0.9
Eggs	40	--
Meat	7	--
Oil	5	5.5 0.9

To this must be added the special coupons issued to instructors, on which they can buy goods at low prices.

Maintenance costs for Soviet instructors are a heavy burden on the economy of East European countries. Besides the purely nominal salary of 37,000 lek, Albania must supply the special allowances, bringing the total costs for a Soviet instructor to 60,000 lek. An Albanian worker gets about 3,000 lek; a business which employs 100 workers, not a small business in Albania, has to pay

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300,000 lek in wages, -- in other words, just what five Soviet instructors receive. Yugoslav experience shows by what means the USSR seeks to subordinate the armies of Eastern countries through its instructors and how they behave toward the officers of these armies.

Major Tarasov, the Soviet instructor in Yugoslavia, demanded a swimming pool at his villa for his children. When it was completed, he ordered a tank truck to bring fresh water every day. If any shopkeeper refused to deliver goods to Tarasov's wife without ration coupons, Tarasov would ask the Division Commander to send two soldiers with submachine guns to the chairman of the people's committee to force him to deliver the goods without coupons. Major Tarasov came to Yugoslavia with two trunks. When he left, he had a truck with 12 chests, a sewing machine, and several radios.

Three hundred and fifty thousand dinars' worth of household goods had to be installed for Oberst Blank. He wanted the most expensive Kelim rugs and if he was not satisfied, he exchanged them several times. One soldier was in charge of taking Blank's dog out, sleeping beside him on the floor of the house, and combing him twice a day. The cook at the officers' mess had to fry eggs for the dog every morning.

Major Bikov, instructor of a division, was assigned a first-class house in Nish, from which a higher official had been evacuated. Besides, he had luxuries furnishings, rugs, crystal candlesticks, and an official car. However, he was never satisfied. He often exchanged individual items, keeping three officers busy almost entirely on his purchases. Once he complained that, although he wanted some pork sausage, there was none to be found. So a 200-kilogram pig had to be killed just to provide him with a couple of sausages.

Major Vasilevski behaved with particular arrogance. He behaved like a great landowner. At his request, a six-room villa was allotted to him. As servants, he had a cook, two soldiers, and a chauffeur. When he went hunting, the soldiers acted as his beaters.

In individual cases, Soviet officers did not hesitate openly to express their scorn of other people even against those who were promoting socialism in accordance with Soviet propaganda. Thus, when General Obreskar was informed that one of the Albanian garrison officers had to be invited to a banquet, he replied, "What have we to do with Albanians, that wretched rabble? We do not really consider them as people."

Authority of Soviet Instructors

The armies of East European countries are under the direct command of Soviet instructors who are not restricted to teaching only.

In Albania, for example, the chief instructor in section III of the general staff is a major. In mid-1951, he held regular 2-week meetings and shorter courses for section leaders of section II on recruiting problems at the draft board. In these meetings and courses, the officers in charge of notices of induction, of classification of enlisted personnel, and requisitioning of cattle were given instructions on mobilization and on complete conversion to a war economy. Soviet instructors are also working on the organization of a new German army in Central Germany. The Soviet instructors supervising the acceptance of Soviet orders in East European armies demand that these orders be accepted without regard for the conditions obtaining in the country. Hence, there are frequent differences of opinion between them and the officers of the country in question.

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Thus, the Soviet military experts in Albania teach the Albanian officers that, in a war of position, the concentration of artillery must amount to 120 guns on a one-kilometer front. But the whole Albanian Army does not have even 120 guns.

Many of these so-called experts are not experts at all. Often they have nothing to do with their official business. They simply work under the MVD as spies or police inspectors.

Summary

Soviet instructors in East European armies have the following main duties:

1. Complete subordination of all armed forces in these countries to USSR foreign policy.
2. Military preparations for the aggressive plans to be carried out in these countries by the USSR.
3. Reorganization of the armies on the Soviet plan, assimilation of mobilization plans, and drafting of war plans.
4. Acceptance of the operational experience and tactical principles of the Soviet Army.

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